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# CURRENT LITERATURE

## NOTES FOR STUDENTS

**Taxonomic notes.**—ENGLER<sup>1</sup> has described a new genus (*Hieronymusia*) of Saxifragaceae from South America (Argentina and Bolivia). It was referred first to *Saxifraga* (*S. alchemilloides*) and later to *Suksdorfia*.

SCHLECHTER,<sup>2</sup> in continuation of his studies of orchids, has described 19 new species, representing 9 genera, chiefly collected in Argentina by DUSEN.

ST. JOHN<sup>3</sup> has described a new genus (*Phanerotaenia*) of Umbelliferae, based on *Polytaenia Nuttallii texana* C. and R., of Texas and Oklahoma.

SETCHELL and GARDNER<sup>4</sup> have begun the publication of the marine algae of the Pacific Coast, the first part including the blue-green algae. The group as presented contains 30 genera, representing 6 families. Of the 93 species included, 35 are described as new.—J. M. C.

**Polycotylous seedlings.**—Miss BEXON<sup>5</sup> has found that *Centranthus ruber* (Valerianaceae) develops a remarkably high proportion of polycotylous seedlings. From two square yards of soil in which self-sown seeds of this species were germinating, 87 polycotylous specimens were obtained and studied. They are grouped as hemitricotyls, tricotyls, hemitetracotyls, and tetracotyls, terms which are self-explanatory. The vascular anatomy of these various conditions was investigated, with some interesting results. A "twinning" seedling was of special interest, the twinning being due either to the fusion of two distinct embryos, or to the partial separation of the product of the embryo initial.—J. M. C.

**Unusual monocotyledonous roots.**—Miss SPRATT<sup>6</sup> has discovered some interesting anomalies in the roots of some monocotyledons. In *Dracaena* there

<sup>1</sup> ENGLER, A., *Hieronymusia* Engl., eine neue Gattung der Saxifragaceen. Notizbl. Königl. Bot. Gart. 7:265-267. fig. 1. 1918.

<sup>2</sup> SCHLECHTER, R., III. Orchidaceae novae, in caldarii Horti Dahlemensis cultae. Notizbl. Königl. Bot. Gart. 7:268-280. 1918.

<sup>3</sup> ST. JOHN, H., *Phanerotaenia*, a new genus of Umbelliferae. Rhodora 21:181-183. 1919.

<sup>4</sup> SETCHELL, W. A., and GARDNER, N. L., The marine algae of the Pacific Coast of North America. I. Myxophyceae. Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 8:1-138. pls. 1-8. 1919.

<sup>5</sup> BEXON, DOROTHY, Observations on the anatomy of some polycotylous seedlings of *Centranthus ruber*. Ann. Botany 34:81-94. figs. 9. 1920.

<sup>6</sup> SPRATT, AMY VERA, Some anomalies in monocotyledonous roots. Ann. Botany 34:99-105. pl. 3. fig. 1. 1920.